

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. An electrical switch comprising a housing having an opening, a plurality of fixed contacts located in the housing, a switching member supported in the housing for movement, at least one moving contact movable by the switching member for movement to come into contact with and out of contact from the fixed contacts, and an actuator disposed in the opening for movement to actuate the switching member and in turn the moving contact, with a gap formed between the actuator and the opening that surrounds the actuator, wherein a resiliently deformable seal is connected across the opening and the actuator to seal off the gap, thereby avoiding entrance of foreign matter through the gap into the housing.

2. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the seal has an extended body length across the opening and the actuator to permit unobstructed movement of the actuator relative to the opening.

3. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 2, wherein the seal has a folded cross-section providing the extended length.

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4. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 3, wherein the seal cross-section has a U-shaped bend pointing inwards.

5. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 3, wherein
the seal has an intermediate portion between the opening
and the actuator, the portion being folded and having a
5 reduced thickness.

6. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the seal comprises a sleeve having opposite ends connected
to the opening and the actuator respectively, a first of
10 the ends being disposed around the corresponding one of
the opening and actuator.

7. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 6, wherein
the second end is also disposed around the other of the
15 opening and actuator.

8. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 6, wherein
the first end is stretched around a part forming the
opening or of the actuator to which the first end is
20 connected.

9. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 6, wherein
the first end and a part forming the opening or of the
actuator to which the first end is connected have
25 complementary cross-sections mated together.

10. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the seal comprises an inner part that is resiliently

deformable and an outer part that is considerably thicker than the inner part and surrounds and protects the actuator.

5 11. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 10, wherein
the outer part is substantially cylindrical and contains
substantially wholly the inner part.

10 12. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 10, wherein
the inner and outer parts together have a Z-folded cross-
section.

13. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 1, being a
pushbutton switch.